

canadian adventist

# Messenger

december 2009

Peace Joy Love

Seek  
Him

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# The Year in Review

I admit that I am a sucker for those 'year in review' programs that overtake the media channels at this time of year. So many blogs, news services and television and radio programs offer up their opinion of what the highlights were of the past year! Whatever your hobby—music, politics, movies, current events, sports, etc.—you can be sure that someone somewhere is preparing to take you through the “top 20” moments of it for 2009. Barbara Walters is especially good at it, of course. *Billboard* magazine, too. And there are many others who have a knack for looking over the past 12 months and picking just the right moments to string together so that they do somehow, often in an odd patchwork-y way, define who we have been as a community this year.

There is another 'year in review' that I've come to look forward to recently. It is a little-known gem but one the *Messenger* is going to be promoting more in years to come. I'm speaking of the “Report of the President to the SDACC Board of Directors.” I know, it doesn't sound like much of a page-turner, but I assure you that, as members of our denominational community, it is something you should read.

In this year's report, titled “Collaboration,” SDACC president Dan Jackson comments that “all of our work is linked to and dependent on collaboration with others. We are, in fact, interdependent, and if we hope to continue accomplishing great exploits for God, we will not lose sight of this.” An example of the interdependence is given over the next several pages as he talks of the nearly \$3 million that the union gave to its conferences for various purposes in 2009: \$1.8 million to fund the retirement plan, nearly \$1 million for evangelism and \$50,000 for outreach during the 2010 Olympics. The SDACC didn't only disperse money to the conferences, either. Entities also were supported, among them *It Is Written* which can now be viewed nationally on CTV thanks, in part, to the \$50,000 appropriated to them by the union.

Like any good 'year in review' piece, Jackson ends by looking forward. He surmises what the major points of 2010 will be and includes on his list the establishment of a prayer initiative across Canada, a drive to promote media channels like VOAR and the HOPE channel, the improvement and increase of a web presence for the SDACC, harnessing the youth groups across Canada, discussing the significance of literature ministry in our country and many other important items.

Most heartening is Jackson's acknowledgement that “no work can remain static” and that we no longer exist in the world that was 1953 or even 2007. To those of us who long to see our church change and grow, these words are encouraging. More encouraging yet, however, is his constant reminder that “God and God alone is responsible for the growth and movement of His church” and his gratitude for the ongoing collaboration that we have with God and with each other. ■

*Crystal*

Crystal D. Steeves, editor  
steevesc@sdacc.org



Photo: Insignia Photography.

(A copy of the report may be obtained from the president's office.)

# Messenger

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**Publisher/Editor** Crystal Steeves  
steevesc@sdacc.org

**Art Director** Joan Tanasiychuk  
joant@sdacc.org

**Ad Manager** Lori MacDonald  
lmacdonald@sdacc.org

**Circulation Coordinator** Lori MacDonald  
messenger@sdacc.org

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## Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

1148 King Street East  
Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8  
phone 905/433-0011 fax 905/433-0982

**President** Dan Jackson  
djackson@sdacc.org

**VP Administration** Nilton Amorim  
namorim@sdacc.org

**VP Finance** John Ramsay  
jramsay@sdacc.org

## Conferences

**Alberta** 37541 Hwy 2, Red Deer County, AB T4E 1B1, phone 403/342-5044

**British Columbia** Box 1000, Abbotsford, BC V2S 4P5, phone 604/853-5451

**Manitoba/Saskatchewan** 1004 Victoria Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0Z8, phone 306/244-9700

**Maritime** 121 Salisbury Road, Moncton, NB E1E 1A6, phone 506/857/8722

**Newfoundland** 1041 Topsail Rd., Mount Pearl, NL A1N 5E9, phone 709/745-4051

**Ontario** 1110 King Street East, Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8, phone 905/571-1022

**Quebec** 940 Ch. Chambly, Longueuil, QC J4H 3M3, phone 450/651-5222

**Canadian University College** 5415 College Ave., Lacombe, AB T4L 2E5, phone 403/782-3381

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**BOOKENDS** Christmas in My Heart—Scott MacDonald reviews the newest edition of the *Christmas in My Heart* series.

*I remember when I was young,* my dad would set up a camcorder on Christmas morning and videotape us kids running down the hall into the living room to open our gifts. Oh, the excitement of it all!

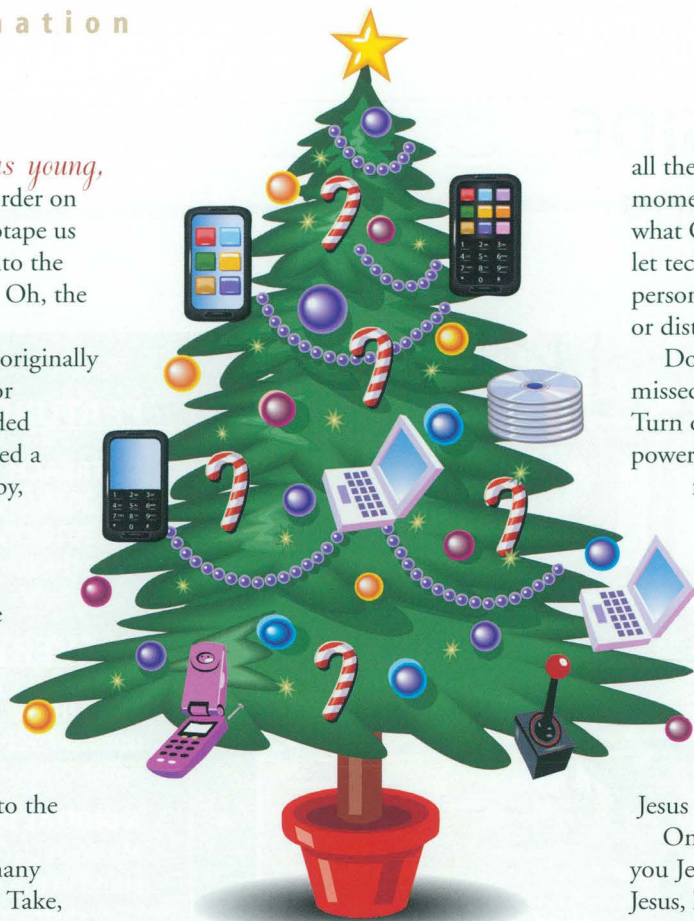
The video camera my dad originally used has been obsolete now for about 15 to 20 years. It recorded the video onto something called a VHS tape. As the years went by, camcorders changed (VHS to mini-VHS to Hi-8 to DVD to HD), but the images they captured changed as well. The video revealed something very interesting. Comparing the gifts we received back then with the gifts kids receive today, it is easy to see our transition into the technological age.

Technology has changed many other things about Christmas. Take, for example, the digital Christmas cards you can create on the computer. Insert a picture of the family from your digital camera, enter as many email addresses as you'd like and press send. Gone are the days of having to write a personal message on multiple paper cards with an ink pen. Gone are the days of having to buy Christmas stamps and sending a Christmas greeting and family photo by snail mail.

And what about Amazon.com? Amazon has changed the way many people do their Christmas gift planning. One simply creates an account and begins adding to a "wish list" or buying for someone else. It might look like

#### WISH LIST:

- 🎁 A new iPhone (the old model doesn't take videos, and the internet connection is too slow).
- 🎁 A blu-ray DVD player (with full HD 1080p output and the ability to decode the latest HD audio formats . . . for the ultimate entertainment experience.)
- 🎁 A new digital camera (with 10.2 megapixels, image stabilization and 10x optical zoom)



## My Wish List

Others can look at your wish list on Amazon's website so they know what to buy for you. Or, as Amazon puts it, "to make sure it's something you really want."

Amazon might have perfected the wish list, but they didn't invent it. Christmas wish lists have been around for a long time, and no doubt technological gadgetry will be at the top of most lists this December. Putting aside

all the technology and gizmos for a moment, however, we must not forget what Christmas is about. We must never let technology stand in the way of our personal relationships with loved ones or distract us from our focus on Christ.

Don't be like the innkeeper who missed Jesus because he was too busy. Turn off the cell phone for a while and power down the computer. Make time for the Lord.

And don't run your life like the Roman Empire which missed Christmas because other gods took the place of Christ in the citizen's lives. Put down the Xbox and Wii; switch off the TV. Allow nothing else to take the place of worshipping

Jesus Christ.

On my wish list this year, I wish you Jesus, because when I wish you Jesus, I wish you everything: joy, peace, forgiveness, salvation, abundance, purpose, prosperity and eternal life. When He's the Lord of your life, His presence is all you need. It is my prayer that you not only connect with Jesus this Christmas season, but that you cling to Him the rest of your life.

On Christmas morning, we will unwrap our presents, but eventually the novelty of all the stuff will wear off. The present that was once so precious to you will end up in the closet or handed off to someone else. A newer version of your latest gadget will arrive that has more megapixels or is smaller or faster, or has better battery life. In time, your Christmas gifts will mostly be forgotten. But God has given us the ultimate gift—the gift of His Son Jesus Christ who will "save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:23 NKJV).

Don't miss Christmas by wishing for too much stuff. Prayerfully consider what is on your wish list. ■

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*Troy McQueen is the communication specialist for the British Columbia conference and the pastor of the Kelowna church.*

# The Best Car Wash on the Planet

“...a really refreshing attitude in a world that seems to think that being average is a good thing.”



While back, I happened to be in San Francisco for some meetings. As I was driving through one of the nearby communities, I noticed a car wash that specialized in cleaning cars by hand. The sign out in front said “European Detailing—the best car wash on this planet.” I like that sign.

I have never met the folks who run the car wash in San Anselmo, but I like their attitude. They’re aiming high. They’ve decided that they are going to be the best. And that’s a really refreshing attitude in a world that seems to think that being average is a good thing.

As Christians, believers in the Adventist faith, we can have the same attitude. Oh, I don’t mean that we ought to go around with our noses stuck up in the air, thinking that we’re part of an exclusive club. That’s not what I’m saying. We can be conscious of the fact that Christianity is thrilling! It has something of really great quality to offer. If this is true, we should have the best friendships and treat others in the best way possible. In short, we can and should be the neatest people to know, the most enjoyable people to be around and the best that this planet has to offer.

How can we have the best relationships and be the kindest folks alive on the planet? It won’t happen by chance. Jesus summed it up very simply. “Love God with everything you have, then love and treat everyone else the way you would like them to love and treat you.” What a key to healthy relationships! What a wonderful place the church can be if all its members were to live this principle every day. Indeed, we are called to keep this picture of love ever before us, relying on Christ to change us and live through us.

Our communities are filled with people who need to understand that religion is more than doctrine and theological argument. Christianity is a living reality based on the character and life of Christ being imitated by you and me. Please don’t misunderstand

me. I am not saying that the Sabbath, the Second Coming and all the other doctrines are not important. They are. Yet, in spite of that, Christ says, “Here is how everyone will know that you are my followers, if you have real love for each other.” There is a balance between doctrine and practical life. Life is where the action is. What you are on a daily basis is the real you. What you do when you are not forced to or expected to is a window into what you really are deep down inside.

When Jesus was here, deeply religious people were frequently His greatest challenge. They knew their Bible from cover to cover. They were in church every Sabbath. They paid tithes in the most precise fashion known to human-kind. But for all they knew and did, they did not love either God or their neighbour, and when Jesus came into the world, they were ready to kill the kindest, most thoughtful, considerate person the world has ever seen. It could have been different. They could have practiced their faith both in life and in doctrine. They chose not to.

You and I have choices to make. What place will we permit Christianity to take in our lives? Will we keep true Christianity at arm’s length, aware of its importance yet afraid of what it may do to us if we truly and fully let it define who we are? Or will we live it, relying on Christ to continually change us in ways that make noticeable differences in how we live? Better still, will our families and neighbours, work associates and others notice that something is different? Jesus said it well, “The things which are humanly impossible, God can do.”

May God help each of us to be a part of the warmest, kindest, most thoughtful places of worship in all of Canada. ■

*Mark Johnson is the president of the Alberta conference.*



Josue Sanchez prefers real relationships.

## New Moon

December, 2009

**My friends and I went to see *New Moon* and loved it. Did you see it? What do you think about it?**

### Josué Sánchez

Answer

Yes, I saw it. Wait, let me rephrase that: I *endured* it. The movie's target audience is teen girls and, well, I'm definitely *not* in that demographic sector! LOL

If I had to summarize it by characters, this would be it:

"Hi, my name is Edward and I'm a vampire. I love you but you're better off without me."

"Hi, I'm Jacob, your Native American friend. Don't listen to the vampire. I love you more and will never hurt you. Oops, I just found out I'm a werewolf. I may actually hurt you!"

"Hi, my name is Bella and I'm confused."

To be honest, even though the storyline may seem inoffensive, I see a danger in feeding your mind a diet of this kind of movie. Why, you ask? Because they focus on extremely unreal situations and expectations that totally clash with your daily life relationships.

I'm not even touching on the vampire and werewolf aspect of it here—that's obviously pure fantasy. But supercharged romantic movies (or novels and cheesy soap operas, if you ask me) contribute to an unhealthy detachment from reality. They make us compare our day-to-day relationships to fictional ones. After seeing Jacob, the buffed-up dude, and Edward, the oh so-cool guy, you go back home and you wonder why *nobody* loves you the way Bella is loved. The guys at your church don't even come close to Jacob and Edward. They seem so dull compared to the guys from these kinds of movies!

You think I'm exaggerating? OK, probably, if you only take this movie as an example. But the problem is when that's *all* we watch and feed our minds with. TV shows, magazines, novels and movies all sum up to a quite powerful negative influence in your set of values.

On the other hand, try this recipe I found on a Facebook profile: "A woman's heart should be so lost in God that a man needs to seek Him in order to find her." You won't find this kind of advice in those movies, of course. But if you follow it, your soul will forever be in harmony with God. Yeah, that same soul that Bella was willing to lose for Edward.



## TeenTalk Online

[www.TeenTalkPage.com](http://www.TeenTalkPage.com)



Now you can join the conversation on TeenTalk's brand new page on Facebook where you can submit questions, share stories and make new friends!

Become a fan of TeenTalk to keep updated (you'll need a Facebook account)

## Josue

[www.JosueSanchez.com](http://www.JosueSanchez.com)

Josué is a youth pastor with a passion to share Jesus with teens. He currently lives in Hagerstown, MD with his wife and small daughter.

Make sure you add him to your **Facebook**, **MySpace**, **Twitter** or **FlowWith.me** friends list!

Join the conversation on this topic at [www.TeenTalkPage.com](http://www.TeenTalkPage.com)



# Creation Corner for Kids

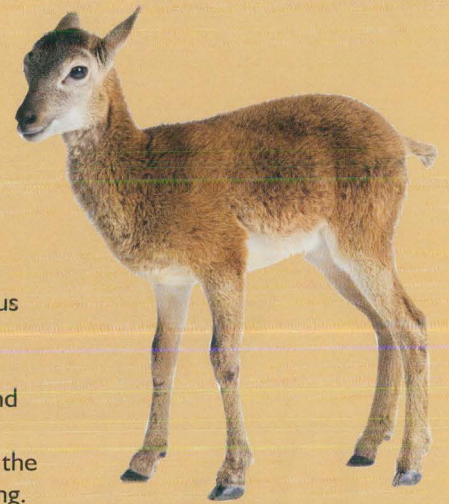
“A gracious woman retaineth honour.”  
Proverbs 11: 16

## Bighorn Sheep

A band of Bighorn Sheep stood grazing on a strip of lush lawn on a city boulevard as we were looking for a gas station one day. While Randolph re-filled the gas tank, the rest of us sat on the boulevard watching the sheep.

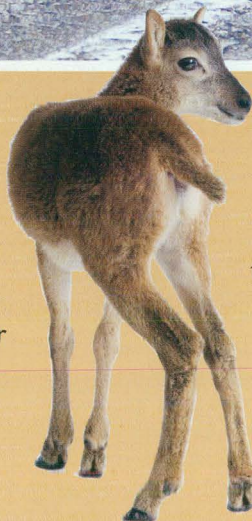
The babies nibbled and leapt about while the adults grazed. Then, for no apparent reason, an older female stopped eating and walked slowly out onto the busy highway. And just stood there.

The traffic stopped. Like the children of Israel following the priests into the middle of the Jordan, the rest of the sheep crossed the road to the other side and resumed their feeding.



### Think about it.

While the horn-crashing male bighorn sheep get a lot of attention, it's really the quiet, old mothers you need to watch. They're the real leaders. Though older women in our society don't often get the kind of respect they deserve, the Bible gives us a different example of how older women should be treated. Godly older women like Timothy's grandmother Lois, are recognized as heroes of faith and virtue.



### Do it.

Get to know a godly older woman in your church or neighbourhood. What can she teach you about life and godliness? Surprise her with a gift to honour her contribution to your community. For Bible study, make a list of godly older women and note their spiritual contributions. You can learn more about Bighorn Sheep at <http://nature.ca/notebooks/english/bighorn.htm>.

—Tammie Burak has recently published a children's activity book called *Creatures of the Boreal Forest*, which is available as an ebook at [www.creationactivitybook.com](http://www.creationactivitybook.com) or from the Alberta ABC.



# One step at a time



*Top left:* Associate professor for Religious Studies Bruce Boyd and wife Loma Boyd cross the finish line. *Top right:* Associate professor Klaus Irrgang, running club sponsor and chair of the CUC Wellness Department crossing the finish line. *Bottom:* Azalea Lehndorff and third-year Psychology major Jared Webb pose at the finish line.



It was a cold and wet day in late October when participants eagerly waited for the inaugural Lacombe in Motion Walk/Run event. Runners and walkers stretched while volunteers registered and distributed race numbers—all waiting for the start of the race. And then they were off. Some darted off the line quickly, while others were more calculated, but all in their own way eagerly moved ahead.

Azalea Lehndorff, a fourth-year Biology major and running club founder had, since the club's inception in the autumn of 2008, wanted to host an event. She quickly gathered support from campus leadership and the Lacombe community, and, a year later, the Lacombe in Motion Walk/Run event was reality. Lehndorff, along with Associate Professor Klaus Irrgang, running club sponsor and chair of the CUC Wellness Department, partnered with local runner Bill Nielson and other community members to organize the event. The run would promote the local trails that wind through Lacombe and the lakes around the CUC campus. The goal was to raise money for developing new trails, improving existing ones, as well as building a parcourse (exercise stations) on the trails.

The event was a success, as two hundred runners registered—double the number organizers expected. Participants were given the choice of four distances: two, five, 10 and 21

kilometres. All age groups were represented, from elementary students to ninety-two-year-old Alma Reimche, who walked the five-kilometre route. For Irrgang, it was important that everybody was able to participate. “We wanted to raise awareness for health and fitness at CUC, Lacombe and the surrounding area. We wanted to promote fitness and not just speed, but running and walking, as well. It is very important on our campus not to just grow intellectually and spiritually but also physically . . . and sometimes this is neglected,” remarked Irrgang. The event raised more than \$4,000.

For Lehndorff, the success of this one project only fuels the fire for the next. This time the run is a bit more ambitious than the 21-kilometre route she ran for Lacombe in Motion, but only by about 5,000 kilometres! Inspired by humanitarian efforts to build schools in Central Asia, Lehndorff has started a new project—Freedom Run 5,000. Her plan is to raise money to build schools

for Afghan girls by running from St. John's, Nfld. to Vancouver, B.C. But she doesn't want to run by herself. Beginning on May 28, 2010, a group of five runners, each running just more than 24 kilometres (15 miles) a day, will travel from St. John's to Vancouver. The hope is that local runners will join in and run parts of the race in their area. As for Lehndorff, she wants to run the whole way. “I want to run with the group the whole time . . . Hopefully it can work out that I can,” she states.

Lehndorff started running two summers ago. All she wanted to do was see how far she could go. For Lehndorff, running to make a difference makes sense. It's what she loves to do. “I enjoy running because I can get out and think, pray and clear my head.” She continues, “running a marathon isn't easy, but it's an amazing journey.” ■

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*JR Ferrer is the communication director for Canadian University College.*



*(l-r): Marcus Heisler, Tyson Phillips, Elizabeth Ley, Cheria Hunter, Mandy Klinger, Azalea Lehndorff, Anthony Eisses, Matt Muehlhauser, Jared Webb*



*Third-year Secondary Education major Tyler Ferguson, posing with a fellow runner.*

For more information about the Freedom 5,000 Run and information on how you can participate, visit the CUC website at [www.cauc.ca/freedomrun](http://www.cauc.ca/freedomrun).



# The 2010 Olympics: Sh

O Canada! Our home and native land! True patriot love in all thy sons command.

With glowing hearts we see thee rise, The True North, strong and free!

From far and wide, O Canada, We stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land glorious and free! O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

**O**ur national anthem, written in 1908, is sung with pride by Canadians from Victoria to Halifax, Nunavut to Saskatoon. And it's exciting to think that our national anthem will be even more meaningful when we sing and share it with the world at the 2010 Winter Olympics, February 12–28 in British Columbia.

The 2010 Olympics can provide ways for you to be the hands and feet of Jesus! Whether it's knitting scarves to be distributed as gifts to young guests or organizing a torch relay celebration with your local community, the Olympics provide many ways for you to connect with and serve others in acts of gracious hospitality:



# aring **MORE** Than Gold

## Canadian Adventist Youth Summit (CAYS)

Plan to be in Vancouver during the Olympics and share in an experience of a lifetime. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada will be hosting its biennial Youth Summit, February 18–21, in Vancouver. This will be an opportunity for those 16 to 29 years of age to connect with 300 young adults from across Canada and the United States.

This exciting three-day summit will feature more than a dozen workshops focused on outreach, with topics such as *Connecting in Your Workplace*, *Launching a Campus Ministry* and *Engaging in Spiritual Conversation*. Sabbath will include an outreach activity around the Olympics in Vancouver, with a special evening celebration featuring speaker and musician José Rojas, singer/songwriter Naomi Striemer, and a First Nations dance troupe from Hamilton, Ontario.

## Mission Teams

Imagine you and a team of people from your church coming to Vancouver to connect with international visitors and local community through serving! You might

- Distribute handmade Olympic gift scarves and *Insight* magazines to tourists
- Serve beverages at transit sites or hospitality centres
- Volunteer at concerts or open crowd festivals
- Coach kids at Kids' Games (sport-themed VBS) activities
- Go on prayer walks around the city
- Hand out at pin trading stations and connect with tourists

Mission teams will be working together with Christians from various denominations at venues and projects around Vancouver. Being part of a mission team gives you an opportunity not only to serve local and international guests but also to connect with and learn from Christians from around the world who have served at previous Olympic games.

Canada, get ready to host the world in 2010!

**Insight magazine** has produced 10,000 copies of a special Olympic edition in 2010 for distribution during the games! The magazine will contain interviews with athletes about life issues such as faith, discipline and goal setting.



**For more information** about the Youth Summit, mission teams or other outreach opportunities, visit [www.adventistyouthsummit.ca](http://www.adventistyouthsummit.ca), [www.morethangold.ca](http://www.morethangold.ca), or [www.gothedistance.org](http://www.gothedistance.org).



# YOU + ADRA = HOPE

*You might stumble across him as he sleeps on the sidewalk or in a park, but you probably won't see him lying behind the dumpster or in an abandoned vehicle or building unless you are intent on finding him.*

Joe\* is one of Toronto's homeless. He wakes cold and shivering uncontrollably, soaked to the skin with rain and snow. He stiffly pulls himself upright, stamps his feet and beats his arms across his chest as he tries to get his blood circulating.

Survival necessitates combing through dumpsters for discarded food, begging for money from passers-by and finding shelter from the cold. Joe well knows the dangers of frostbite. He drank too much one night last year and fell asleep without protecting his hands from the cold. When they turned black, he realized he needed treatment, but by then the damage was irreversible and the doctor at the clinic had to amputate a couple of fingers.

Joe is very grateful for the Touch of Love volunteers who come by with food, clothing and positive support once a month. He's still homeless, but his life doesn't seem quite so hopeless when someone cares.

Walking Tall used to live in a cardboard box, his days passing in a drunken haze. His "wake-up call" came when the doctor gave him just two months to live. When the volunteers at the Friendship Outreach program in Merritt, B.C. learned about Walking Tall's illness, they encouraged him to change his lifestyle and give up drinking. Now usually sober, a bathed and groomed Walking Tall has moved out of his box and into an apartment. Although his life is still not perfect, the lifestyle changes have given Walking Tall an extended life expectancy and hope for a better future.

Clarence, a university-educated man with a young child and a pregnant wife, was hit hard during the economic

downturn and struggled to provide for his family. When there was literally no more food in the house, Clarence decided to check out the local Adventist Community Services Centre (ACSC). With no idea about what to expect, Clarence entered the building with trepidation, but his fears were instantly dispelled by the friendly greeting he received.

Clarence feels that the respect, love and compassion he experienced from the centre during his time of temporary poverty were exceptional, and the encouragement and understanding greatly lessened his emotional distress. Receiving high-quality fruits, vegetables, juice and yogurt made him realize their value, and he has since incorporated many low-cost but healthy foods into the family diet.

Clarence is now gainfully employed as the director of a counseling centre for at-risk and homeless teenagers. In addition to counseling, his centre provides daily hot lunches and snacks, clothing and other basic essentials for these teenagers. Clarence networks with the ACSC on a regular basis and is "paying forward" the compassion he received there.

Because of the generous support of its donors, ADRA Canada is able to provide funding to projects that give hope to Canadians like Joe, Walking Tall and Clarence when they experience poverty and distress. Thank you for remembering ADRA Canada in your financial planning and for being part of the equation that is bringing hope to Canada. ■

*Elizabeth Horniachek is the donor relations assistant for ADRA Canada.*

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## Alberta

### Handshake: A PAA Tradition

*Parkview Adventist Academy: Distinctly Academic—Decidedly Christian*

A timid young lady from Kelowna, B.C., arrived at Canadian Junior College in the fall of 1944. Her boyfriend, Don, was fighting in war-torn Europe. Her former school, Okanagan Academy, only went to grade 11 that year. Claire Reimche Ritchey says it was the annual Handshake event that made her feel so excited and happy that year—the last year before CJC became CUC. She still recalls with great fondness how Lila Eaton, Ken Hoover and Ethel Blabey made her feel welcome at Handshake that crisp September night. This traditional event goes back before 1927 and was even being written about in the *Western Canadian Union Tidings* magazine, forerunner of the *Messenger*.

It seems that many community students would always come to the college to visit their school chums at Handshake time whether they were enrolled or not. Such a person was Victor Fitch. He had been sent home one June as a punishment for going downtown to play competitive ball. Then, the following year, he took time off to work in the sawmills of B.C., but he just couldn't resist the urge to go see his former school buddies at Handshake in late September of 1954. It wasn't his plan to return to CUC, but two faculty members said, "Vic, you need to come back!" and so he did. Who would ever think he would become president of the university later in his career?

The faculty and staff played a key role in the success of the school's enrolment in the early years. At handshake they



The theme for this year's Handshake was 'robots'.

wore many hats: teacher, enrolment officer, marketing vice president and recruiter—often making arrangements for students to get jobs so they could attend. Sometimes the lucky student would only take half a class load so they could work off their school bill. Back then, the college band provided the entertainment and the president of the college gave a welcome speech followed by greetings from the boys and girls deans. It was a time to invoke school spirit with faculty staff and students all mixing in a fun atmosphere.

Today, this event is still organized by the student association. This icebreaker event brings PAA and CUC students to shake a welcoming hand and have fun. Over the years there have been many themes. In 1927 each new student was given a red carnation. In 1996 all the

guys wore grass skirts. In 1999, 70 years after the decade, the theme was the roaring twenties. There have been superheroes, comic book characters, wild west attire, and an Olympic theme, to name a few.

This year, robots were the theme. College freshman Christian Lintan won the robot-off with his moonwalking disjointed robot impression and was rewarded with an iPod for his efforts. In yesteryear the gifts were just as fitting. In the June 1934 issue of the *Messenger*, student Josephine Price noted that the winner of a Handshake contest like this could win a very nice prize like a car ride, a boat ride on Lake Barnett or a half dozen oranges. How times have changed as the tradition continues! ■

—Landon Ritchey, director of Marketing, PAA

## Sherwood Park Care Center Turns 40

The Sherwood Park Care Center is a Seventh-day Adventist facility owned and operated by Alberta Health, whose purpose is to meet the needs of aging family members and accomplishes their mission by providing quality care for the individuals who reside in this Christian care facility.

On the weekend of September 25-27, 2009, the staff, conference administrators, residents, friends, former employees and resident family members gathered in a large white tent right on the property next to the care center to enjoy words of congratulation and appreciation throughout the weekend. It was evident to all how God has led in the direction of this care facility since its inception 40 years ago.

The weekend events also included tours of the facility and grounds, culminating in a BBQ with live entertainment! It was obvious that there was much thought, planning, and efficient administration of the weekend events. It was so appreciated and enjoyed by all who were able to attend. ■



(l-r) Kathy Fortunat, director of care, Danny Northam, financial officer and Gerald Northam, administrator, receiving words of appreciation from Mark Johnson, chair of the Board and conference president.

## British Columbia



(l-r) Eugene Foisy cutting ribbon and shaking hands with Pastor McComb, Smoke Whitecotton in tower, Emil Lukat.

## VOAR: First Radio Station for Cherryville

On Friday, September 4, 2009 at 10:15 a.m Eugene Foisy, regional director for region "E," made history by cutting the ribbon for Cherryville's first radio station. In that region, VOAR is located at 94.7 on the FM dial. The re-transmitter is located on Cherry Ridge in the community of Cherryville. VOAR shares the transmitter shack and tower with three other TV stations on Smoke Whitecotton's tower. The signal can be heard with clarity as far away as Lumby.

Seven persons were present at the ribbon cutting ceremony Friday morning as Pastor Terry McComb shared a bit of radio history going back to Marconi and reaching into today's achievement. VOAR's signal comes

from St. Johns and has been broadcasting since the fall of 1929. This makes Voice of Adventist Radio one of the oldest Christian radio stations.

“Our VOAR project began about two years ago”, said McComb, “when the Richlands Community Seventh-day Adventist church voted to bring VOAR to our area.” “Nadine Cromby,” he said, “did all the legal work. It was her faithful work that made this station happen.”

“The other key player in this project was Smoke Whitecotton,” McComb continued. “He and his very able helper, Emil Lucat, while not church members, are both married to sisters who are members.” Whitecotton was the one who climbed the tower and installed the antenna. He is also maintainer of the tower and transmitters.

VOAR broadcasts 24 hours a day seven days a week. Its programming consists largely of contemporary

Christian music country gospel music along with health, family, and religious programs like *Focus on the Family* by James Dobson. VOAR, Christian family Radio is dedicated to sharing good news.

The Richlands Community Seventh-day Adventist Church is sponsoring this repeater station and is located just East of Hwy 6 near Cherryville at the corner of Creighton Valley and Hammond Rd. ■

## North American Division

### Adventist Communicators Celebrate a Year of Excellence

Collaboration. Creativity. Inspiration. This year’s Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) Convention delivered all of this and more. Newport Beach, Calif., proved to be an inspiring backdrop for the 20th annual conference. A total of 140 communicators from across the country joined together to exchange ideas, celebrate successes, and brainstorm strategies for improvement.

After mingling with welcomed newcomers and longstanding veterans at the open reception, attendees gathered for the Thursday night program. The Communications Showcase featured exciting new projects, highlighting the Voice of Prophecy and the Hope Channel. The business meeting covered numerous agenda items, including the nomination and voting of new board members and SAC president. Steve Vistaunet, assistant to the president for the North Pacific Union Conference, will be replacing Celeste Ryan Blyden, assistant to the Columbia Union Conference president and Visitor editor, who dutifully served as SAC president for the past two years.

The evening closed with the SONscreen Film Screening, highlighting young adults who effectively use film and video to encourage social consciousness, inspire action, and celebrate creative entertainment.

Keynote speaker Ryan Bell, pastor of the Hollywood (Calif.) church, and young adults from his congregation blessed Friday morning attendees by sharing their inspirational—and artistic—approach to ministry. The morning address opened minds to the importance of artists, filmmakers, writers, and actors serving the Lord.

The remainder of the day was spent in breakout sessions addressing the diverse needs faced by commu-



Newly-elected Board of Directors for the Society of Adventist Communicators.

nicators. Award-winning filmmaker Martin Doblmeier closed the evening with a moving presentation of his film *The Power of Forgiveness*. Clips of his upcoming film *The Adventists* was also shown. The production focuses on Seventh-day Adventist’s unique approach to the interconnected relationship between faith and



Attendees of the 2009 SAC Convention in Newport Beach, California

science and is scheduled for release December 2009.

Blessings continued pouring Sabbath morning with a touching testimonial from Christian Iordan, associate pastor of the Campus Hill church in Loma Linda, Calif. Campus Hill senior pastor, Hyveth Williams, DMin, presented the morning's sermon.

Her prolific rendering reinvigorated and charged the congregation as she urged worshippers to serve and praise the Lord "excellently."

The evening's award banquet and farewell was drenched in humor by the program's guest emcee, Jimmy Phillips, including the surprising performance of The Three Waiters. However the heart of the evening was focused on celebrating efforts of high-reaching and high-achieving individuals and teams. Roland Scalliet from Southern Adventist University won the Student Award; Jessica Lozano from Southwestern Adventist University won the Young Professional Award; the 2008 Offering Campaign for Adventist World Radio was awarded the Excellence Award; the Southeastern California Conference website redesign was awarded the Reger Smith Jr. Cutting Edge Award; Daniel "Don" A. Roth received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Communicators left rejuvenated, inspired, and revving to fulfill this year's theme: "Ride the Wave of Communication Excellence." Save this future information: October 14-16, 2010, Rochester, N.Y. For more information about SAC, visit [adventistcommunicator.org](http://adventistcommunicator.org). ■

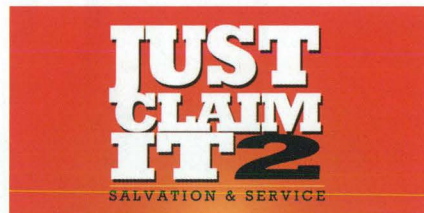
—Julie Zaiback

## "Just Claim It!"—2nd NAD World Youth Prayer Conference

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America will host its second World Youth Prayer Conference on April 7-11, 2010 in Columbus, Ohio. Themed "Just Claim It: Experience the Power of Prayer—Claiming Communities for Christ," youth from all over the world will participate in this power packed experience to claim the power of God in their lives.

Crime, violence, drugs, and sexual immorality have plagued all homes, communities, schools, and even churches. "The purpose of this Prayer Congress is two-fold. First it will draw serious attention to the challenges of senior youth by reintroducing them to a love relationship with Christ. Second, it will empower them to reclaim their cities through service to others while bringing a message of hope," said James Black, Sr., director of youth ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.

This new and unique spiritual experience



will draw over 15,000 attendees to begin a 5-day prayer journey to "Just Claim It" in the name of Jesus. In addition to the 120 hours of organized prayer, organizers have coordinated 15 workshop tracks (180 workshops), a special community mission project called "Just Make-Over," speaking opportunities for teens called "Youth Preach-Out", drama presentations focusing on Biblical prayer encounters, Biblical floats parade, and a music festival with a special feature of the 300 voices JCI Mass Choir accompanied by a 250 piece orchestra and Recreation (translations provided for international attendees).

To ensure the JCI impact in every

community, special invitations have been sent to the President of the United States, his cabinet, members of Congress, the Senate, Governors, State Legislatures, Mayors, City Councils, Community Activists, and world leaders of every nation. "We want leaders to come and have our youth lay hands on them and pray for their leadership," said Black. "Also, delegates are encouraged to bring non Adventist relatives and friends to JCI—this voids the "it's just for us" mentality. It's time our youth know that their prayers can literally impact the entire world," he said.

To raise seed funds for this unique youth experience, organization have established a donation initiative called Dreamers 100.

For more information on the conference, registration, schedule details, or to be a volunteer, please visit [www.jci2.org](http://www.jci2.org) or send an email to [info@jci2.org](mailto:info@jci2.org) or call (301) 680-6420. ■



# General Conference

## Adventist Media Center Receives Top Awards in Russia

The Voice of Hope Media Center in Russia received two highly-prestigious awards on September 16 at the VII Ceremony of “The Elite of the National Economy” in Moscow. Voice of Hope speaker/director Sergey Kuzmin attended the illustrious event at the President Hotel.

On behalf of the media center—which is located in Tula, Russia—Kuzmin accepted the award for “Socially Aware Enterprise.” The center was also given the annual international award for “Best Company of the Year—2009,” which was established by the Duma (the lower house of the Russian Federation’s parliament).

“In such a way, the government and the state acknowledged the successful work of the media center in the last 19 years and its active participation in the development of Russian society,” Kuzmin says.

“Adventist World Radio is very proud of the Voice of Hope Media Center in Tula, Russia,” adds Benjamin Schoun, president of AWR. “At the same time, we are humbled that leading organizations in Russia have recognized these efforts and granted these special honors. It reflects the quality and faithfulness of the staff. We are planning now to increase the number of broadcasts so that even more people will benefit from the programming that is offered.”

The Voice of Hope Media Center was the first Christian group to begin official broadcasts in the territory of the former Soviet Union. The first 20-minute program was broadcast on October 19, 1990. The Voice of Hope programs have remained popular, as proven by the statistics of the Bible Correspondence School, where the number of students is constantly growing.

Today, the programs are broadcast on Adventist World Radio, Radio of Russia, Family Radio, Radio Theos, and



Sergey Kuzmin accepts awards for the Voice of Hope Media Center in Russia.

Tula Radio. They are also available on the Internet. Kuzmin says, “In such a way, Christian radio programs in Russian can be listened to not only in the territory of the former Soviet Union but also in the most remote parts of the world.”

He continues, “Since we were first on the air, we have received a great many letters. In order to help our listeners find answers to numerous questions, we established the Bible correspondence School, whose number of graduates is tens of thousands of people. The employees of the Voice of Hope receive and send a lot of correspondence on a daily basis. It needs to be pointed out that not a single letter—be it a complicated Bible question or a request for Bible classes—has remained unanswered. There are listeners who have been corresponding with the media center for many years.”

The staff recently received a letter from Volchina Alevtina of Yurkino in the Nizhniy Novgorod region. She wrote, “Thank you for your beautiful programs. They are just what we need—both adults and children. In our village there is no library, no school, no post office, and no medical station. The nearest church is many miles away, so

the only source of spiritual nurture is the media. We are so grateful that there is such a radio as the ‘Voice of Hope.’”

Since the Internet is becoming one of the most popular sources of information, staff at the media center created a Bible Internet Course in 2006 that is based on the Bible Correspondence School. People can go to [www.golosnadezhdi.ru](http://www.golosnadezhdi.ru) and not only make themselves acquainted with news of the “Voice of Hope” but also take any of the suggested Bible course on line. On this web site, people can also listen to the latest radio programs and ask various questions about the Bible.

Kuzmin describes another initiative: “At the ‘Voice of Hope,’ we have begun publishing an informational newspaper with the same name. We publish it once every two months and send it to everyone who has subscribed. We publish this newspaper as a sign of gratitude to those who empathize with the ministry of the ‘Voice of Hope,’ support it, and want to know more about its activities. In the newspaper, there is always the latest news about the media center’s projects, news about the programming, interesting articles on spiritual topics, and fresh stories in the column ‘Wonderful Power of Prayer.’”

During its 19 years of operation, the media center has created countless radio programs, developed and carried out many projects, and become very popular with its audience. Kuzmin says, “All of it would have been impossible to do without the blessings and the guidance of our loving Heavenly Father, without the daily prayers and committed ministry of the staff, and also without the support of many of our friends and fellow brothers. The friendly team of the media center is looking into the future with faith and is making every effort to ensure that the saving message of Jesus Christ is available to many more people, so that they will find joy and peace in their Savior.” ■

# Award Winning Holiday Specials

## All Is Bright!

**A heartwarming  
holiday story  
for the whole family**

*It's Christmas Eve and Dad is stuck at the airport. His unit has been overseas for a year and he wants to get home. Will he make it?*

**Starring: Joseph Campanella, Patty Cabrera,  
Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis, Jr.**

**H**earthwarming  
stories the whole  
family will love!

## Christmas at Cadillac Jack's

**An unexpected road trip to find  
a long-lost daughter becomes an  
unforgettable Christmas Eve.**

*Join Joe and Rose for a heartwarming,  
freshly prepared serving of love, reconciliation  
and forgiveness.*

**Starring: Joseph Campanella, Ruta Lee, Talia Shire, Joey  
McIntyre, Mary McDonough, & Patty Cabrera.**

## Love's Pure Light

*A stand-alone sequel to the  
award-winning special, All Is Bright!*

**On Christmas Eve, a  
widower's life is changed by  
an unopened gift his wife  
gave him five  
years ago.**

**Starring: Joseph Campanella, Patty Cabrera,  
Deniece Williams & Ruta Lee.**

*presented by  
the Seventh-day Adventist Church  
in North America*

**Check [www.nadadventist.org](http://www.nadadventist.org) or call 805-955-7681 to find a station in your area.  
Watch it on TBN and Hope Channel. Check local listings for dates and times.**

■ **Announcements**

**PROCESS:**

- All announcements (non-profit events, new member notices, birth announcements, weddings, anniversaries, obituaries and tributes) should be emailed to Lori MacDonald lmacdonald@sdacc.org or faxed to her attention at 905/433-0982.
- Every individual named in the announcement must be aware of the submission and have granted the submitter approval for printing.
- Obituaries *must* be submitted on the appropriate form, completed and/or approved by a family member of the deceased. The forms (both printable and electronically submitable) are available at [www.sdacc.org/messenger](http://www.sdacc.org/messenger).
- The *Messenger* assumes no liability for typographical errors or responsibility for inaccuracies originating in submitted material.
- For more information about *Messenger* announcement policies, go to [www.sdacc.org/messenger](http://www.sdacc.org/messenger), click 'writers guidelines' then click 'announcements.'

■ **Announcements**

**Grandview SDA church and North Okanagan Junior Academy** would like to invite all former pastors, members, teachers, students and supporters to celebrate our 100th anniversary with us. There will be a weekend of special services and programs commemorating the event as well as highlighting our history. Join us Sept. 17-19, 2010. More info and updates can be seen at [www.grandviewadventist.ca](http://www.grandviewadventist.ca).

■ **New Members**

**ONTARIO**

**Dwight Patrick Rey, Rainon Robes, Jessica Gamez and Florence Alconcel** were baptized at the Pathfinder camporee in Oshkosk, Wis. on Aug. 15, 2009 by Edwin Martin. They were baptized as a result of the Pathfinder Evangelism week 2009 at the Mount Zion Filipino church in Downsview, Ont. They are now members of the Mount Zion Filipino church.

**MARITIMES**

**Taylor Burke, Emma Cummings, Heather Totten, Jake Totten, Samantha Totten, Terrance Totten,**

and **Debera Sabean** were baptized in Hampton, N.B. on June 6, 2009. Taylor, Emma, Heather, Jake, Samantha and Terrance were baptized by Ron Hendersson. Debera was baptized by Jacques LeBlanc. They are all now members of the Barnesville church.

**Isabelle Goguen and Iona Reeder** were baptized on June 6, 2009 in Moncton, N.B. by Ron Nelson. **Carl Reeder and Brigit McLaren** were also welcomed by profession of faith. All are now members of the Moncton church.

**Taylor Purvey** was baptized in Moncton, N.B. on July 4, 2009 by Ron Nelson. He is a member of the Moncton church.

**Craig Kelemen and Mark Pentz** were baptized on July 30, 2009 at Camp Pugwash, N.S. by David Asscherick. They are now members of the Barnesville church.

**David LeBlanc and Janelle LeBlanc** were baptized at Camp Pugwash on Aug. 1, 2009 by Jared Browne. They are now members of the Fredericton church. Their mother, **Amanda McGivery**, was rebaptized that same day.

**Amanda Conliffe** was baptized at Camp Pugwash in Pugwash, N.S. on Aug. 1, 2009 by Jacques LeBlanc. She is now a member of the Saint John church.

**Eric Carpenter** was baptized at Camp Pugwash in Pugwash, N.S. on Aug. 1, 2009 by Glen Corkum. He is now a member of the Truro church.

**Glynis Hubley** was baptized at Camp Pugwash in Pugwash, N.S. on Aug. 1, 2009 by Pedro Graça. She is now a member of the Tantallon church.

**Evans Monyoncho and Margarita Bettran Lopez** were baptized at Camp Pugwash in Pugwash, N.S. on Aug. 1, 2009 by Bob Lehmann. They are now members of the Charlottetown church.

**Ryan Fraser and Adam Hubley** were baptized at the Tantallon church in N.S. on Aug. 22, 2009 by Pedro Graça. They are now members of the Tantallon church.

**MANITOBA/SASKATCHEWAN**

**Chalisse MacDonald and Helena Twigge** were baptized in Weyburn, Sask. on Mar. 7, 2009 by Darren Godsoe. They are now members of the Weyburn Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**Tom Langley** was baptized in Rosthern, Sask. in Dec. 2007 by

Terry Sparks. He is now a member of the Rosthern church.

■ **Births**

**Joshua David Allen** was born Sept. 8, 2009 to Michelle (Hossack) and Brian Allen of Victoria, B.C.

**Titus Cole Dubyna** was born May 7, 2009 to Mandy and Michael Dubyna of Lacombe, Alta.

**Cole Connor Gallant** was born Aug. 9, 2009 to Darla (Holm) and Blaine Gallant of Watson, Sask.

**Lenie Adriana Liina Hannes** was born June 3, 2009 to Rachel (Adema) and Stephen Hannes of Ancaster, Ont.

**Julienne Meagher** was born Aug. 1, 2009 to Jielrose and Sean Meagher of Springhill, N.S.

**Zara Mai Roberts** was born Aug. 25, 2009 to Laura and Yuri Roberts of Edmonton, Alta.

■ **Weddings**

**Kellie Donovan and Mark Jackson** were married July 18, 2009 in Sydney, N.S. Kellie is the daughter of Wayne and Eva Donovan of Sydney, and Mark is the son of Ken and Mary Jackson of Georges River, N.S.

**Emily Hepburn and Ryan Fraser** were married August 23, 2009 in Tantallon, N.S. and are making their home in Halifax, N.S. Emily is the daughter of Brian Hepburn of Bruce Mines, Ont. and Francine La Pointe of Owen Sound, Ont. Ryan is the son of Ivan and April Fraser of Glen Margaret, N.S.

**Amanda LaLonde and William Ennest** were married on July 5, 2009 in Moose Jaw, Sask. Amanda is the daughter of Mike and Janet LaLonde of Mississauga, Ont., and William is the son of Don and Sherron Ennest, also of Mississauga, Ont.

**Rose Movilla and Chris Ryan Ganzon** were married on Sept. 7, 2009 in Toronto, Ont. where they are also making their home.

■ **Anniversaries**

**Margaret (Penner) and Thomas A. Davis** of Creston, B.C. celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Sept. 18, 2009. They celebrated twice: once with their church family and again with most of their children,



grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Pastor Davis ministered to the Sault Saint Marie and Ottawa churches in Ontario, and spent several years as editor-in-chief for publishing houses in the Philippines and India as well as with the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Maryland. The Daveses have three children: Arlen (Sherry) of College Place, Wash., Cheryl (Edward) Dunn of Anchorage, Alaska and Lorna (Daniel) Dreher of Priest River, Idaho. They have five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Doreen and Vernon Gimbel** of Lacombe, Alta. celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Aug. 25, 2009. They were married in the



CUC chapel in 1949. The Gimbels have two children: Ivan (Sharon) of Lacombe and Sherry Lee (Rob) Olynick of Quill Lake, Sask. They also have five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

■ **Birthdays**

**Gertrude MacDonald** celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sept. 5, 2009 in North Sydney, N.S. Gertrude has three children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

(photo top of page 26)



Gertrude MacDonald

**Julia Pyke** celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 10, 2009 in North Sydney, N.S. Julia is a founding



member of the North Sydney church. Julia has three daughters, five grandchildren and one great-grandson.

**Sheila Regan** celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Aug. 30, 2009 in Tantalton, N.S. Sheila celebrated



with more than 70 family members and enjoyed a detailed family history that was on display—one that included Sheila's great-grandfather, Sir William Henry Pope, one of the founding Fathers of Confederation.

## Obituaries

**Edgar Bowes** was born Feb. 16, 1932 in Richmond Hill, Ont. and

died Sept. 4, 2009 in Toronto, Ont. Surviving: wife Ilah (Janes); son Scott (Katherine Szamko-Bowes) of Oshawa, Ont.; daughters Susan (Paul) Coulombe of Brampton, Ont. and Kelly (Paul) Bowes of Cookstown, Ont.; sisters Nancy (Harry) Bisson of Brampton and Dorothy Bowes of Orillia, Ont.; and seven grandchildren.

**Nicholas Dudar** was born Dec. 20, 1919 in Myrnam, Alta. and died Sept. 5, 2009 in Kingston, Ont. Nick served as head cook at Kingsway College providing meals for students and conference functions. He also served as head deacon at College Park church in Oshawa, Ont. for several years. He is predeceased by two brothers and three sisters. Surviving: wife Lovely; son Richard of Kingston; daughter Rachel (Tim) Arner of Knoxville, Tenn.; two brothers; two sisters; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**George Egolf** was born Sept. 30, 1919 in Canora, Sask. and died Aug. 25, 2009 in Trail, B.C. George served his church as an educator, coastal mission worker, church elder, Sabbath School teacher, a member of the B.C. conference board and a member of the CUC board of directors. Surviving: wife Joyce (McGee); sons Chris (Debbie) of Armstrong, B.C., Richard (Susana) of Abbotsford, B.C. and Dan (Val) Egolf of Trail; daughter Joy (Fred) Vandenoer of Sidney, B.C.; brothers John, Fred and Chris; sisters Dorothy McLaughlan, Lillian Earl and Kate Postoloski; 9 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Mayme Lorraine Gerber** was born Jan. 23, 1937 in Sidney, B.C. and died Oct. 5, 2009 in Langley, B.C. Lorraine was the Primary Sabbath school leader and librarian in the Langley Adventist church for many years. She is predeceased by her mother Esther Diminyatz Andrews and her son Calvin Marshall Andrews. Surviving: husband Henry; daughters Sherry and Heather, both of Surrey, B.C.; father Ted (Pat) Andrews of White Rock, B.C.; sisters Cheryl (Fred) Paliniuk of Yakima, Wash. and Shirley (Robert) Smith of Montrose, Colo.; half-brother Cary Thorne of Surrey; and half-sister Jill Rhynard of Vernon, B.C.

**Doug Knopp** was born Nov. 17, 1955 in Burnaby, B.C. and died July 8, 2009 in Grande Prairie, Alta. Doug was a member of the only floating church in North America, and he served his church as Sabbath school superintendant, social committee member and greeter. Doug is predeceased by an infant son. Surviving: wife Glenda;

daughter Cheri of Grande Prairie; parents Ernst and Alna; brother Ken of Port Hardy, B.C.; and sister Laverne Knopp-Brown of Port McNeil, B.C.

**P. Marilyn (Emery) Lorenson** was born May 8, 1937 in Los Angeles, Calif. and died July 20, 2009 in Portland, Ore. Marilyn served as academic secretary in Loma Linda University's School of Public Health, teacher in Heri and Arusha, Tanzania and as registrar at Weimar College. Surviving: husband Reuben; sons Lester (Lyla) of Maple Ridge, B.C., Ronald (Stephanie) of Portland, David (Esther) of Florence, Wis. and Donald (Heidi) of Gladstone, Ore.; brothers Larry (Linda) Emery of Saratoga, Calif., Thomas (Peggy) Emery of Graham, Wash., and Michael (Nancy) Emery of Mollala, Ore.; sisters Cathy (Frank) Hammond of Springfield, Ore., Cheri (Lothar) Varady of Honolulu, Hawaii, Cindy (Arnie) Estipona of Glendale, Calif., Lindy Emery of Springfield and Jace (Mark) Gergozy of Vancouver, Wash.; and 10 grandchildren.

**Ruby (Uren) Lowry** was born Aug. 7, 1916 in Strathroy, Ont. and died Sept. 25, 2009 in Bowmanville, Ont. She is predeceased by her husband M. Scott. Surviving: sons H. Maynard (Jean) of Loma Linda, Calif. and Cecil W. (Valmae) of Apopka, Fla.; daughters Frances (Ken) Schander of Toronto, Ont. and Janis of Apopka; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Nick Matiko** was born Sept. 22, 1917 in Rabbit Lake, Sask. and died Oct. 9, 2009 in Creston, B.C. Nick served his church as elder, deacon, treasurer, young people's leader, Sabbath school leader and as a literature evangelist. He is predeceased by his wife Evelyn, his brother Pete, and his sisters Mary and Sandra. Surviving: daughter Bev of Toronto, Ont.; brother Edward of Millet, Alta.; half-brother Lawrence of Edmonton, Alta.; sisters Nina Hinton of Creston and Ann Whitley of Auburn, Wash.; and half-sister Ruby Babcock of Black Diamond, Alta.

**Monte Myers** was born July 14, 1923 in Brantford, Ont. and died Oct. 4, 2009 in Ajax, Ont. Monte was a charter member of the Albert Street church in Oshawa which he also helped build. Monte also helped build the Kendalwood church. He is predeceased by his wife Nina and his half-brother Gordon. Surviving: son Monte "Sonny" (Colleen); daughter Carolynn (Ken) Maclean; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Robert Daniel Pifer** was born Apr. 13, 1935 in Harrisburg, Pa. and died on Aug. 16, 2009 in Surrey, B.C. Robert worked 14 years in East Africa and the Middle East. Surviving: wife Gerd; son Rob (Lara) Pifer of Chilliwack, B.C.; daughters Linda (Dave) Moyer of Portland, Ore., Randi (Tony) Silva of Orlando, Fla., Lisa (Terry) Fraser of Kelowna, B.C. and Shirley (Russ) Robinson of Abbotsford, B.C.; brothers Chalmer (Joyce) of Apopka, Fla., John (Jackie) of Gainesville, Fla. and Don (Lin) of Lakeport, Calif.; sister Darlene (Bob) Rowand of Glassboro, N.J.; and seven grandchildren.

**Reinhold Frederick Schlecht** was born Jan. 28, 1917 in Germany and died Feb. 6, 2009 in Simcoe, Ont. He served as deacon in the Simcoe church for many years. He is predeceased by his wife Hedwig and son Reinhard. Surviving: daughters Ursula (Joe) Tofan of Vittoria, Ont., Renate (Joe) Arnold of Cleveland, Ohio, Christine (Bob) Salmon of Portage, Mich. and Linda (Tom) Moore of Marlington, W.Va.; daughter-in-law Lois Schlecht of Lacombe, Alta.; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Audrey (Haughland) Scott** was born Oct. 16, 1946 in Vancouver, B.C. and died Sept. 27, 2009 in Hamilton, Ont. Surviving: husband Don; son Ted (Lisa) of Dundas, Ont.; daughter Cindy (Jeff) Adema of Dundas; sisters Beverly (Rick) Bell of Santa Clarita, Calif. and Shirley (Rudy) Reinhardt of Georgia; and six grandchildren.

## Tributes

**Darlene (Stickle) Dalke** was born July 6, 1933 in Rossland, B.C. and died Oct. 8, 2009 in Oshawa, Ont. at home, surrounded by her family. Darlene was a graduate of CUC where she made many lifelong friends. After living in Calgary, Alta. she and her family moved to Oshawa where she worked for many years at College Woodwork and was an active member of College Park church. Surviving: husband Denis Dalke; daughters Sherry Dodson, Lori (Jim) Bradley and Lisa (Erwin) Hamley; grandchildren Teresa (Peter) Mulvihill, Kyle and Kristyn Bradley; and sister Carolyn Serrato.

**Ruth Iola Holder** was born on May 29, 1916 and went to rest on May 2, 2009 in Montreal, Que. She was four weeks shy of her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. She had been an active member in the church since becoming an Adventist decades ago, giving of her

talents and her means. Ruth was an inspiration to so many. She had an irrepressible spirit and a cheerful disposition. Her constant refrain of "Praise the Lord" and those special hugs were her trademark. She is sadly missed, but we are comforted knowing that before long we will see her again. She is survived by daughter Veronica, son Joshua, granddaughter Karen Ruth and many friends.

**Leo Elis Marttinen** was born Aug. 5, 1920 in Vihanti, Finland and died Sept. 16, 2009 in Oshawa,



Ont. Beloved husband of Irene. Dear father of Andrew and his wife, Mia. Cherished grandpa of Andrew Jr., Annya, Sarah and Nicholas. Survived by his brother, Timo Martin, and his sister, Leila McTavish. Dad was imprisoned during World War II because he refused to carry a gun. After a daring prison escape, he fled to Sweden, where he convinced King Gustaf V to accept conscientious objectors who crossed the border from Finland. He was an elder and taught Sabbath School after moving to Canada in 1950.

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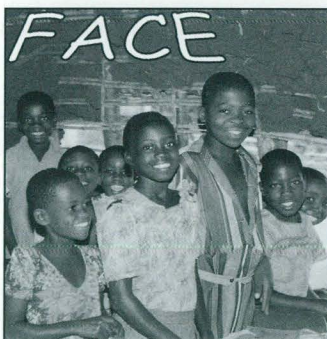
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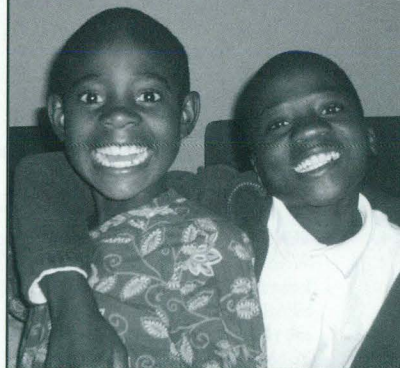
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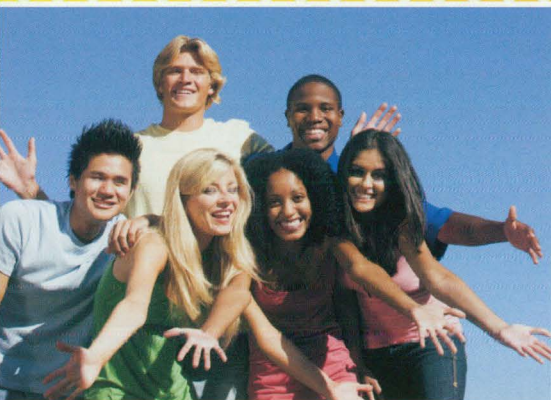
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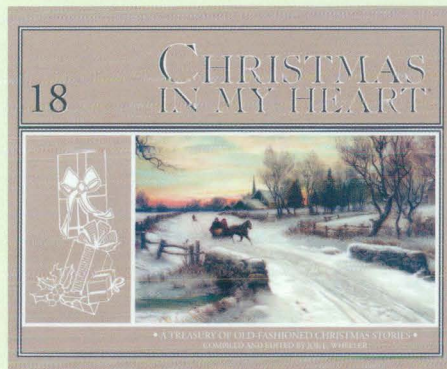
# Christmas in My Heart

A Treasury of Old-Fashioned  
Christmas Stories

Christmas is upon us once again. It is amazing how, when I was a child, the days dragged until this special holiday yet now that I'm an adult they fly by too quickly. Perhaps that is due to the times in which we live: hectic days filled with deadlines, appointments and schedules. Perhaps it is also due to changes in focus and priorities. Whatever the reason for the shift in perception about the holidays, a delightful pause in my daily routine was afforded when I opened a packet from Pacific Press and discovered *Christmas in my Heart*, a collection of Christian-themed Christmas stories. Not only was I grateful for that pause, but also for the newfound moment of purpose I received by pondering the words within the little book.

This book is complimentary with the hectic schedule of most people today. It is composed of 18 short stories that each are three to five pages in length—digestible within an hour or less. Especially in the Christmas season when multiple engagements monopolize our calendars, a book like this aids in bringing the family together for an old-fashioned storytelling around the fireplace. The stories are diverse and stylistically unique yet are thematic enough that one may choose to use this book as a worship supplement during the December month.

Being honest, I read a lot of assignments, papers and work related materials; reading for pleasure seems to have disappeared by the wayside until recently. It was refreshing to divert 15 minutes of my morning to read “The Missionary Barrel” by Carolyn Abbot Stanley, the sixth chapter of *Christmas in my Heart*. It was more than engaging. I felt compelled to read, not just skim, to the end. What was most interesting about this particular tale is that the plot’s direction takes a twist to provide the deeper insight, rather than simply preach it



directly at the reader. The culmination of events and dialogue was satisfying and gave me new material to ponder in my morning worship hour. I immediately started turning pages looking for the next morsel to enjoy.

This is the eighteenth book in a long-running series of compilations of old fashioned Christmas tales to warm one’s heart. I feel like a treasure has been discovered, one that I can share with my family and with our readers. Like the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, this book has depth and relevance beyond the pages upon which the ink is printed. One might think these styles of stories to be cliché and overdone. I disagree. In our non-stop media-ridden world, we need to have these vignettes to keep us steady, anchoring us to our true purpose and goal as a Christian: to live the Christ-filled life. Whether it is Christmas when you read this book or a balmy, sunny July day on your deck, *Christmas in my Heart* vol. 18 has the potential to aid your Christian walk year-round.

Merry Christmas, and “may God bless us, everyone!” ■

---

J. Scott MacDonald is an English teacher  
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